

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-47 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): An expression construct comprising in a 5' to 3' orientation:

(A) an HIV-2 promoter sequence operably linked to a selected polynucleotide; and

(B) an inducible promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the HIV-tat transactivating factor, which binds to and activates said HIV-2 promoter.

Claim 49 (Cancelled).

Claim 50 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, wherein said inducible promoter is a heat shock promoter.

Claim 51 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 50, wherein said heat shock promoter is selected from the group consisting of an HSP70 promoter, an HSP90 promoter, an HSP60 promoter, an HSP27 promoter, an HSP25 promoter, and a ubiquitin promoter.

Claim 52 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, which further comprises, in a 5' to 3' orientation, a second promoter sequence operably linked to a selectable marker gene between (A) and (B).

Claim 53 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, wherein said selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claim 54 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, which further comprises a second selected polynucleotide operably linked to said HIV-2 promoter and an internal ribosome entry site positioned between the two selected polynucleotides.

Claim 55 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 54, wherein said second selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claims 56-67 (Cancelled).

Claim 68 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 48; and a carrier.

Claim 69 (Cancelled).

Claim 70 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 50; and a carrier.

Claim 71 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 51; and a carrier.

Claim 72 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 52; and a carrier.

Claim 73 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 53; and a carrier.

Claim 74 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 54; and a carrier.

Claim 75 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 55; and a carrier.